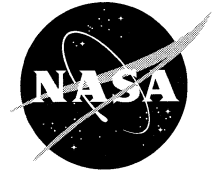


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Road 1
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



January 24, 2006

Reply to Attn of: AL-06-013

TO: AA/Director

FROM: AL/Assistant Chief Counsel for General Legal Matters

SUBJECT: United Space Alliance Hosting Annual Awards Ceremony

On February 24, 2006, the United Space Alliance (USA) is hosting its annual awards ceremony at the Hobby Center, Houston, TX.

The event is to begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a reception at 8:00 p.m. with heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and dancing. During the event, USA employees will be awarded for their performance in the areas of safety, quality, technical, administrative, teamwork, communication services, and leadership. There is no cost for attendance, but the estimated value is \$38.00 per person. Mr. Coats and his wife have been invited to attend the event at no cost. Additionally, Mr. Coats has been requested to address the audience regarding the value and importance of USA employees to the space program and the future of exploration and any other remarks he would like to make.

The event will be a widely attended gathering of approximately 800 individuals from across the Houston and Clear Lake area. The event is of direct interest to NASA and serves as a forum for facilitating the widest practicable dissemination of information concerning the Agency, the U.S. civilian space programs, and continuing to foster relationships with United Space Alliance.

It is my determination that it is in the Agency's interest for Mr. Coats to attend this event. His attendance outweighs any concern that the acceptance of any benefits may, or may appear to improperly influence any NASA employee in the performance of official duties.

Accordingly, Mr. Coats and his wife are authorized to attend and to accept any food and refreshments offered in conjunction with this event, at no cost.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary L. Broerman".

Mary L. Broerman